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Message Text

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PAGE 01 DOHA 00303 071304Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00
ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FEAE-00
FPC-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01
PM-04 USIA-06 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00
ACDA-07 PA-01 PRS-01 /132 W
----------071628Z 055235 /53
R 071150Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY DOHA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2393
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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DEPT ALSO FOR NEA/ARP

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, QA
SUBJECT: QATAR OIL PRODUCTION REMAINS BELOW 1976 LEVELS
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REF: (A) DOHA 0183; (B) DOHA 0186; (C) DOHA 0298

SUMMARY: FEB 1977 QATAR CRUDE PRODUCTION WAS 12,213,329
BARRELS, OR MORE THAN 3 MILLION BARRELS LESS THAN PRODUCTION
IN DEC 1976, LAST MONTH UNDER OLD OPEC PRICE REGIME. COMPANY
AND DISTRIBUTION OFFICIALS WHO BLAMED WEATHER FOR JAN 1977 SLUMP

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WOULD NOT COMMENT ON CAUSES OF CONTINUED LOW PRODUCTION.
END SUMMARY.

1. FEBRUARY PRODUCTION FIGURES INDICATE THAT THE TWO PRODUCTION COMPANIES OPERATING IN QATAR, SHELL COMPANY OF QATAR AND DUKHAN PRODUCTION COMPANY, AGAIN DID NOT PRODUCE UP TO LEVELS OF PRODUCTION PRIOR TO OPEC PRICE RISE WHICH TOOK EFFECT JAN 1.

2. PRODUCTION FIGURES FOR FEB AND COMPARISON WITH 1976 FIGURES FOLLOW:

(A) FEB 1977 DAILY PRODUCTION: SHELL 211,280 BBL
DUKHAN 224,911 BBL
FEB 1977 TOTAL DAILY 436,191 BBL
1976 DAILY TOTAL 484,898 BBL
(B) MONTH: FEB 1977 12,213,329 BBL
FEB 1976 15,090,000 BBL
AUG 1976 16,151,000 BBL (HIGHEST 1976 PRODUCTION)
DEC 1976 15,486,000 BBL
(C) FEB 1977 FIGURES BY COMPANY: SHELL 5,915,830
DUKHAN 6,297,479

3. NORMALLY ACCESSIBLE COMPANY AND GOVT SOURCES WOULD NOT EXPLAIN REASONS FOR CONTINUED LOW PRODUCTION. WEATHER IN THE GULF HAS IMPROVED NOTICEABLY SINCE JAN AND WEATHER RELATED LOADING PROBLEMS WERE NOT ADVANCED AS REASON FOR CONTINUED LOW PRODUCTION IN FEBRUARY. NONE OF OUR SOURCES WOULD ATTRIBUTE PRODUCTION DECLINE TO TWO-TIER OPEC PRICE STRUCTURE BUT THE VOCIFEROUS DENIALS WE HEARD LAST MONTH WERE NOT HEARD IN FEB.
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ROUTINE REACTION TO QUESTIONS ON SUBJECT WAS TO CHANGE THE SUBJECT.

4. MARCH PRODUCTION FIGURES FOR QATAR CRUDE MAY SHOW SLIGHT CHANGE IN PRODUCTION BETWEEN TWO PRODUCING COMPANIES. AFTER 100 PERCENT TAKEOVER OF SHELL-QATAR, ALL PRODUCTION WILL BE CONTROLLED BY DUKHAN PRODUCTION COMPANY WHICH WILL BE OPERATING IN OFFSHORE AND ONSHORE DIVISIONS. THERE WILL BE SOME RE-ALIGNMENT OF PRODUCTION AREAS BRINGING ALL OFFSHORE OPERATIONS UNDER NEWLY FORMED QATAR-SHELL SERVICES COMPANY, WHICH WILL SERVICE ALL OFFSHORE AREAS, INCLUDING THOSE AREAS FORMERLY UNDER QATAR PETROLEUM COMPANY. AGREEMENT ON TAKEOVER KEPT SAME PRODUCTION LIMITS FOR TWO PRODUCERS (SHICH HAVE BEEN KNOWN AS DUKHAN AND SHELL UNTIL THIS MONTH AND WILL HENCEFORTH BE "OFFSHORE" AND "ONSHORE"), BUT SLIGHT DISLOCATION MAY OCCUR IN PROCESS OF CHANGEOVER.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM PRODUCTION, REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 07-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977DOHA00303
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770077-1149
Format: TEL
From: DOHA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770387/aaaacyro.tel
Line Count: 114
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 DOHA 183, 77 DOHA 186, 77 DOHA 298
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3189916
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: QATAR OIL PRODUCTION REMAINS BELOW 1976 LEVELS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
TAGS: ENRG, QA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d85981bc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009